

# Partnerships

The Natural Areas Management Program intertwines a diversity of projects with an even more diverse assemblage of partners. Examples of completed or ongoing projects and partnerships include:

- **Community and Park Friends groups**-Natural areas restoration and wildlife habitat monitoring.
- **Girl Scouts**-Educational tree identification signs.



- **Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts**— Hiking trail management: tree plantings, kiosks, waterbars, invasives removal.
- **U.S. Forest Service**-Juneau Park pollinator garden.
- **Southeastern WI Invasive Species Consortium** - Broad-based coalition that promotes effective management of invasive species throughout SE WI.
- **SCA and AmeriCorps Crews**-Invasive plant removal, trail construction, and erosion control.
- **The Park People**-Weed Out! Program.
- **Corporate Work Days**— Natural areas restoration and hiking trail management.

# Higher Education Partnerships & Opportunities

## Higher Education

University service learning, independent study, graduate research, and internship projects require students to undertake a variety of community service activities. Natural areas projects revolve around ecological restoration, natural resource data collection, and development of environmental educational materials. Natural Areas staff works with an average of 50 students each semester. Currently, students participate from UW-Milwaukee, MATC, Alverno College, and MSOE.

## Community Education

Urban natural resource management requires an engaged and educated community. It is a priority to take the Natural Areas Program to the people. During 2010, staff gave 33 presentations to 1,655 citizens. The Natural Areas Program staff regularly presents the program and accomplishments to the local community and has lectured at state and national conferences.



For further information, please contact Brian Russart,  
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&  
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County*



## *Mission Statement:*

*Blending Milwaukee County's Diverse  
and Unique Natural Areas With Its  
Culturally Rich Communities to  
Preserve and Nurture Its Natural  
Heritage for Current and Future  
Generations.*



# Urban Natural Areas



The Natural Areas Program is a creative use of partnerships that engages Wisconsin's largest community through the science and beauty of restoration ecology. In just three short years this newly reborn Natural Areas Program has developed over 54 community partnerships and has trained 7,400 volunteers. These volunteers, who donated nearly 17,000 hours in 2010, consist of university students, elementary school students, community groups, government agencies, NGO's, religious institutions, and private corporations. The assistance these partnerships provided and continue to provide is integral to the management of the Milwaukee County Park's 9,100 acres of natural areas. These resources include upland and bottom-land forest, fens, oak savanna, remnant wet-mesic prairie, shrub-carrs, open marsh, lagoons, pollinator gardens, and surrogate grasslands. These are natural resources that have been historically molded by the influences of a great lake, Wisconsin's ecological tension zone, and over 150 years of Euro-American settlement. Many unique challenges present themselves in a county where the human element cannot be separated from the natural element, nor should it. The overriding goal is restoration and management of these natural resources, but another which is of equal importance is binding the citizens of Milwaukee County to their natural areas. In the process we are creating stewards, advocates, donors, and in effect a corps of restoration ecologists.

# Natural Areas Crew

## Staff

Natural Areas Coordinator-Brian Russart

Stewardship Assistant- Brittany Pierpont

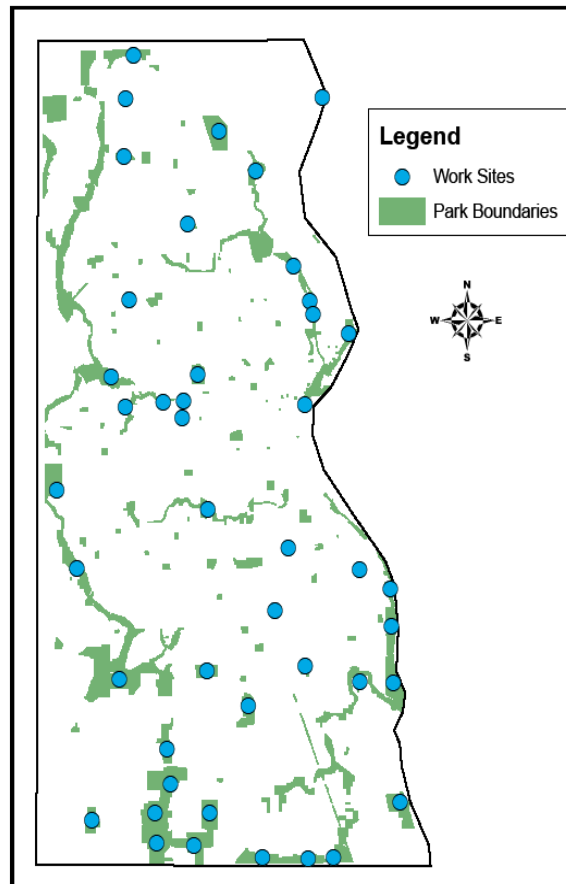
Natural Areas Field Technician- Staycie Greefkes

Natural Areas Interns- Buddy Ebert, Chris Brown, Jillian Meyers, Aaron Harter, Julia Robson

## Current Projects

- Ephemeral wetland monitoring
- Invasive species management
- Wildlife monitoring & habitat management
- Natural resources outreach and education
- Hiking trail design and installation

## Areas of Current Management



# Invasive Species

The Milwaukee County DPRC Natural Areas Program has a strong invasive species management philosophy that revolves around mapping, control, restoration, and education. To further its efforts, staff have developed a strong partnership with the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC).

## Examples of the 26 non-native invasive plants managed by the DPRC Natural Areas staff and volunteers



Garlic Mustard has naturalized, growing thickly in woodland areas. It directly leads to the reduction of native ephemeral wildflowers and degrades wildlife habitat.



Common Buckthorn produces heavy shade and releases allelopathic chemicals that degrades soil quality and limits native plant growth.



Japanese Knotweed is a shrub like forb that spreads with rhizomes to form dense clones spread over large areas.

Cut-leaved and Common Teasel are grassland species that bloom during July to September. These aggressive plants can grow as tall as 7 feet and have white to purple flowers.

